

RESOLUTION

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS - A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

By: Cunningham, Ellison, Reich, Gordon, Fletcher, Goodman,
Jenkins, Cano, Bender, Schroeder, Johnson, and Palmisano

HONORING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND THE CREATION OF THE MINNEAPOLIS ASIAN PACIFIC EMPLOYEE RESOURCE GROUP

- Whereas: 32,000 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders account for 7 percent of the City of Minneapolis population and make up 5 percent of the City's workforce; and
- Whereas: The Asian Minnesotan population represents over 30 ethnicities including but not limited to: Afghan, Asian Indian, Bangladeshi, Bhutanese, Cambodian, Cantonese, Chinese, Filipino, Guamanian, Hmong, Japanese, Karen, Karenni, Khmer, Khmu, Korean, Laotian, Malaysian, Mon, Native Hawaiian, Nepalese, Okinawan, Pacific Islander, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese, Thai, Tibetan, Vietnamese; and
- Whereas: The diverse Asian and Pacific American community includes political refugees from war-torn countries, asylum seekers, choice immigrants, undocumented immigrants, adoptees, green card holders, new citizens, and multi-generational American born citizens; and
- Whereas: The Asian and Pacific American community has the greatest disparities in wealth, educational attainment, and home ownership within a race category; and
- Whereas: Asian and Pacific American employees organized the Minneapolis Asian Pacific Employees group to explore the diversity among Asian Pacific employees, to find community in our similarities, and to find strength in our differences; and
- Whereas: Employee Resource Groups offer City staff the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues and City leaders to help achieve the City of Minneapolis' racial equity hiring goals and improve the workplace by promoting policies and practices that are free of racial discrimination, and to strengthen the mission of the City of Minneapolis to serve all residents in the City; and
- Whereas: Since January 2020, there has been a dramatic increase in reports of hate crimes and incidents against those of Asian descent in response to the coronavirus pandemic; and
- Whereas: The Minneapolis Asian Pacific Employee group has been established to support Asian Pacific employees in the City of Minneapolis, connect employees to City resources, and help create a respectful workplace free of racial discrimination; and
- Whereas: The United States Congress passed Public Law 102-450 in 1992 which annually designates May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month commemorating the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869 where the majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants;

—NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED—

That the Mayor and City Council do hereby commemorate May 22, 2020, as the inaugural launch of the Minneapolis Asian Pacific Employee group and recognize the value and rich contributions of Asian and Pacific American employees and residents to the City of Minneapolis; that we recognize the month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month; and that we denounce racist scapegoating, xenophobia and acts motivated by hatred targeting Asian and Pacific Americans in all forms, especially in connection to the coronavirus pandemic.

Passed this the Twenty-second Day of May, 2020

Lisa Bender, President of the Council

Approved:

Jacob Frey, Mayor

Attest:

Casey Joe Carl, City Clerk